

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 24, 2005

Ray Merz, Director  
Nevada County Human Services Agency  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, California 95959

Dear Mr. Merz:

The purpose of this letter is to approve Nevada County's System Improvement Plan (SIP) submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as part of the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR).

My staff has conducted an analysis of Nevada's Quarterly County Data Reports, Self Assessment and SIP. At this time, we concur with the direction and the overall strategies for improvement. We also concur with the county's prioritization of activities for this upcoming SIP period.

On a quarterly basis, Nevada County will be contacted by your Children's Services Operations Bureau consultant to obtain updates on the status of your progress to implement program change. Additionally, Operations Bureau staff will continue to utilize Quarterly County Data Reports to monitor your county's performance on all of the outcome indicators. In the event that a county's Quarterly County Data Reports identifies a negative data trend or insufficient progress in any of the outcome indicators, including those not contained within the SIP, the CDSS will contact the county to request an amendment be submitted to the SIP.

The CDSS recognizes that the implementation of a new statewide oversight system is both exciting and challenging. The CDSS would also like to reiterate the expectation that the activities contained within the county SIPs will assist the State in meeting its federal Program Improvement Plan goals. The CDSS will also be promulgating regulations for the C-CFSR within the upcoming year. We would like to express our appreciation for Nevada County's commitment to the C-CFSR and to continuously improving outcomes for the children and families we serve.

If you have any further questions about this information please contact me at (916) 657-2614 or Wesley A. Beers, Chief of the Operations and Evaluation Branch at (916) 651-8111.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Bruce Wagstaff*

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure

c: Robert Erickson, Nevada County Child Welfare Director  
10433 Willow Valley Road, Suite A  
Nevada City, California 95959